

is my age, I want our country to be a place where every person who works hard has a chance to live out his or her God-given abilities and dreams. With the education opportunities contained in our historic balanced budget, we have taken a large step toward that goal.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:21 p.m. on August 15 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 16.

Remarks Prior to Departure for Block Island, Rhode Island

August 17, 1997

United Parcel Service Strike

I have just had a conversation with Secretary Herman and with Bruce Lindsey. It's clear that they're making progress in the talks between UPS and the Teamsters, and I just want to urge them to redouble their efforts. This strike is beginning to hurt not only the company but its employees and the people who depend on it. And I think they ought to redouble their efforts to settle this strike, and they ought to do it today. And that's my encouragement to them. I'm pleased by the progress that's been made, and I hope they'll just stay there and settle it today.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks Upon Arrival in Block Island

August 17, 1997

Thank you. Well, first of all, let me say that Hillary and Chelsea and I are delighted to be here. We want to thank the Senator for coming over with us and thank the first warden for coming out to meet us. It took me a little—a moment to realize that the first warden was the highest elected official on the island. I thought maybe I was about to be arrested for something. *[Laughter]*

And let me say I was stunned to see this crowd when we were coming down in the helicopter. But this is the first opportunity

I have had to thank the people of Rhode Island for giving the Vice President and me the enormous vote of confidence we got here last November. And I'm very grateful to you. Thank you so much.

Let me also say I'm just anxious to be here and have some fun. And I want to go through the crowd and shake hands; I want to have a picture taken with the students there from the Block Island School.

And I hope that all of you will always be committed to preserving this beautiful island. I was so impressed when I came down and Senator Reed was telling me a little about the conservation efforts. We have, all of us, a great responsibility to future generations to figure out how to keep growing this economy. I'm very grateful for the economic success that our Nation has had, for the millions of new jobs we have, for the lowest unemployment and inflation rates in decades. But we have to do it in a way that preserves the natural heritage that God has given us. I can see you're committed to that here, and I hope you will help to spread that to people all across New England and, indeed, all across the United States.

Again, thanks for having us here. We're delighted. And I want to get out and say hello to a few people.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at Block Island Airport. In his remarks, he referred to First Warden Kimberly H. Gaffett.

Memorandum on Assistance to Colombia

August 16, 1997

Presidential Determination No. 97-31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Use of Section 614 to Provide Assistance to Colombia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 614(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2364(a)(2) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to make sales and extend credits to Colombia of up to \$30 million in